

Charter Schools: Informing the Educational Landscape

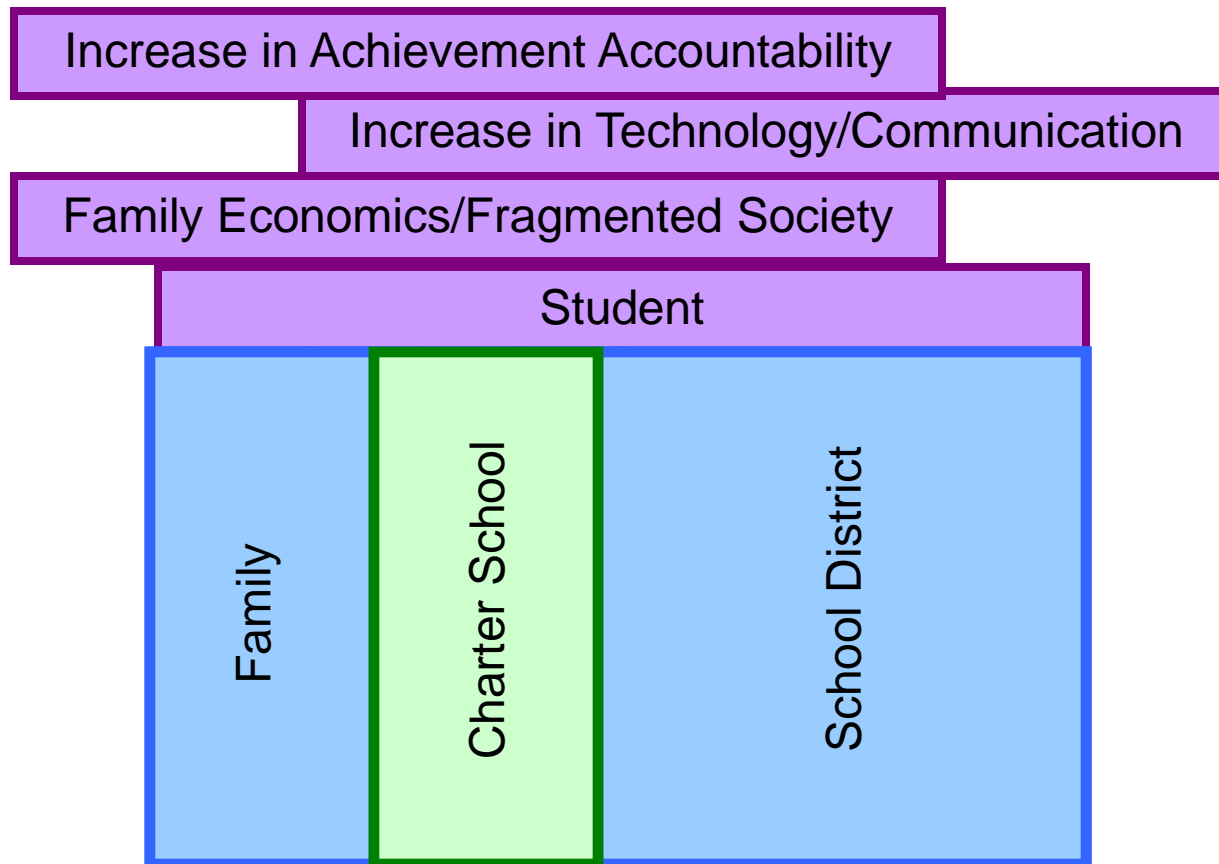
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Changing Educational Needs/Capacities



“Perhaps our difficulty in providing solutions is that our organizations are too big to handle the small problems and too small to handle the big problems.”

A. Giddens, Runaway World

How much can an LEA compensate?

How can the LEA use charter schools?

Flexibility for Accountability



Charter schools negotiate flexibility in exchange for accountability via their charter agreement

Purpose of Charter Schools

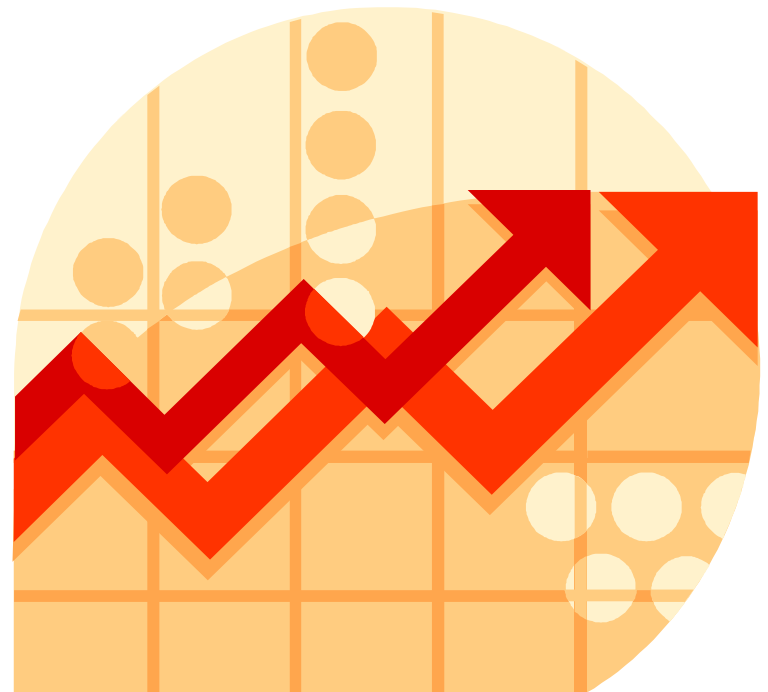
1. Improve learning for all students and close the achievement gap between high and low students.
2. Provide options for parents to meet educational needs of students in HP schools





3. Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods, and provide greater decision making authority to schools and teachers in exchange for greater responsibility and student performance

4. Measure performance of pupils and faculty, and ensure that children have the opportunity to reach proficiency on state academic assessments.





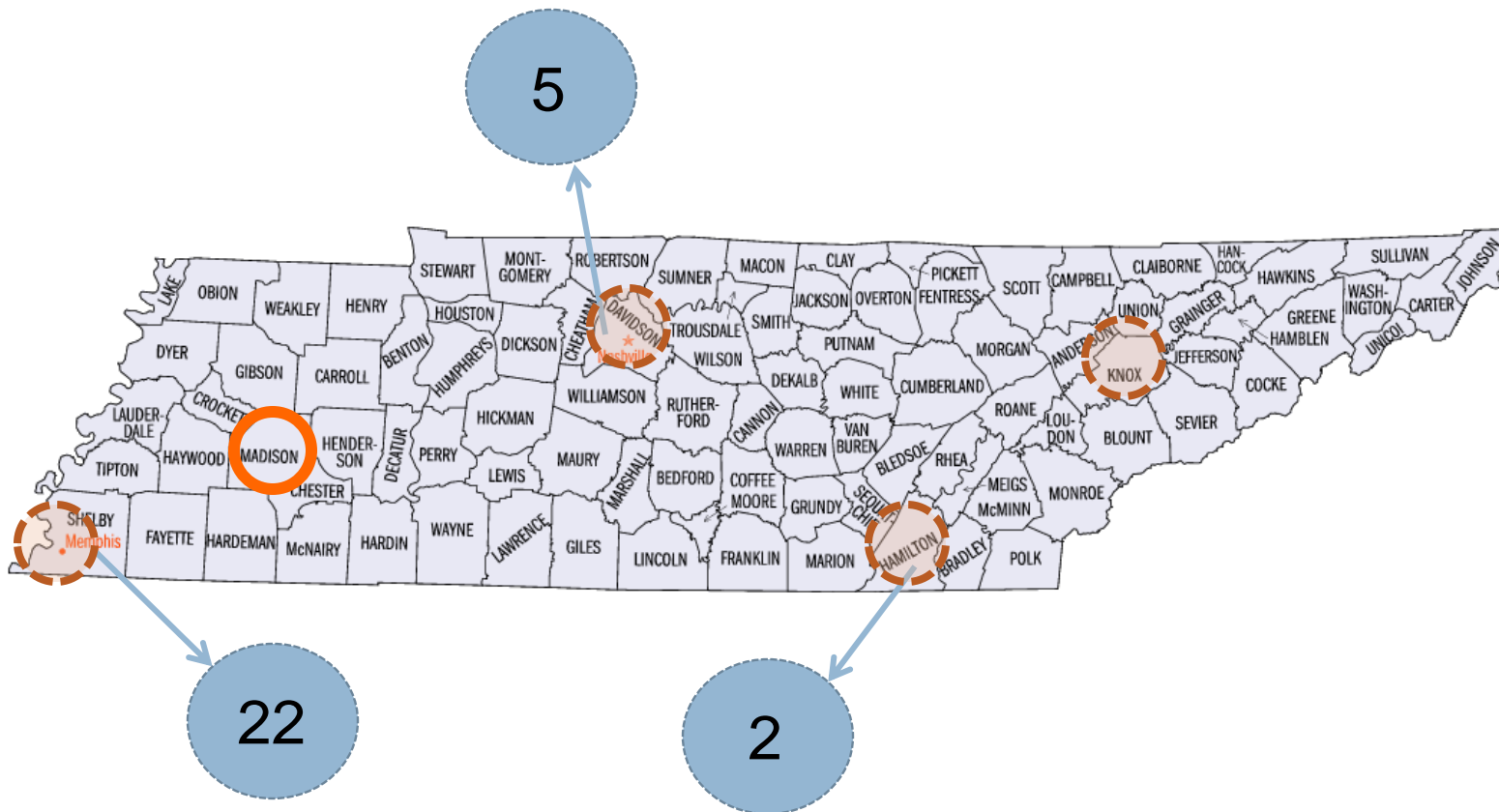
5. Create new professional development opportunities for teachers.



6. Afford parents substantial meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.



Tennessee Charter Schools 2010



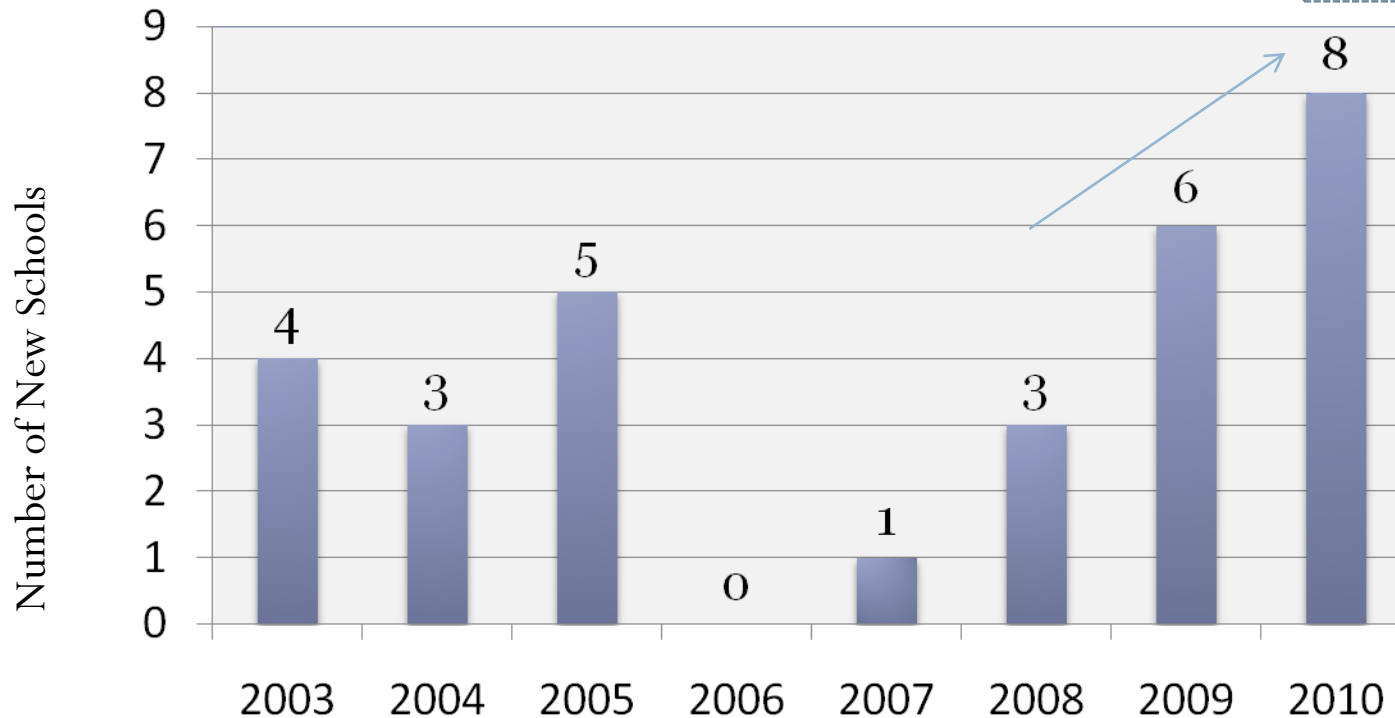
Tennessee Charter School Sector: Overview

- Charter statute passed in 2002 (39th state to pass a charter law)
- **Eligible students include those who:**
 - Are zoned to a failing school
 - Did not pass the state test (TCAP/EOC)
 - Eligible for free or reduced lunch
- **29 charter schools in Tennessee serving approximately 6,800 students:**
 - Memphis – 22 schools
 - Nashville – 5 schools
 - Chattanooga – 2 schools
- **Charter sector in TN includes a balance of all grade configurations**
 - Elementary – 7 schools
 - Middle – 11 schools
 - Middle/High – 7 schools
 - High – 4 schools
- **Promising Academic Results**
 - Vast majority of TN's charter schools (in all grades/subjects) are outperforming district averages
 - 4 of TN's charter schools in 2009 (out of a total of 16 at that time with available information) were ranked in the **top 25** of all schools in the state in terms of value-add gains

Growth of Tennessee Charter School Sector

29 Charter Schools Serving 6,800 Students

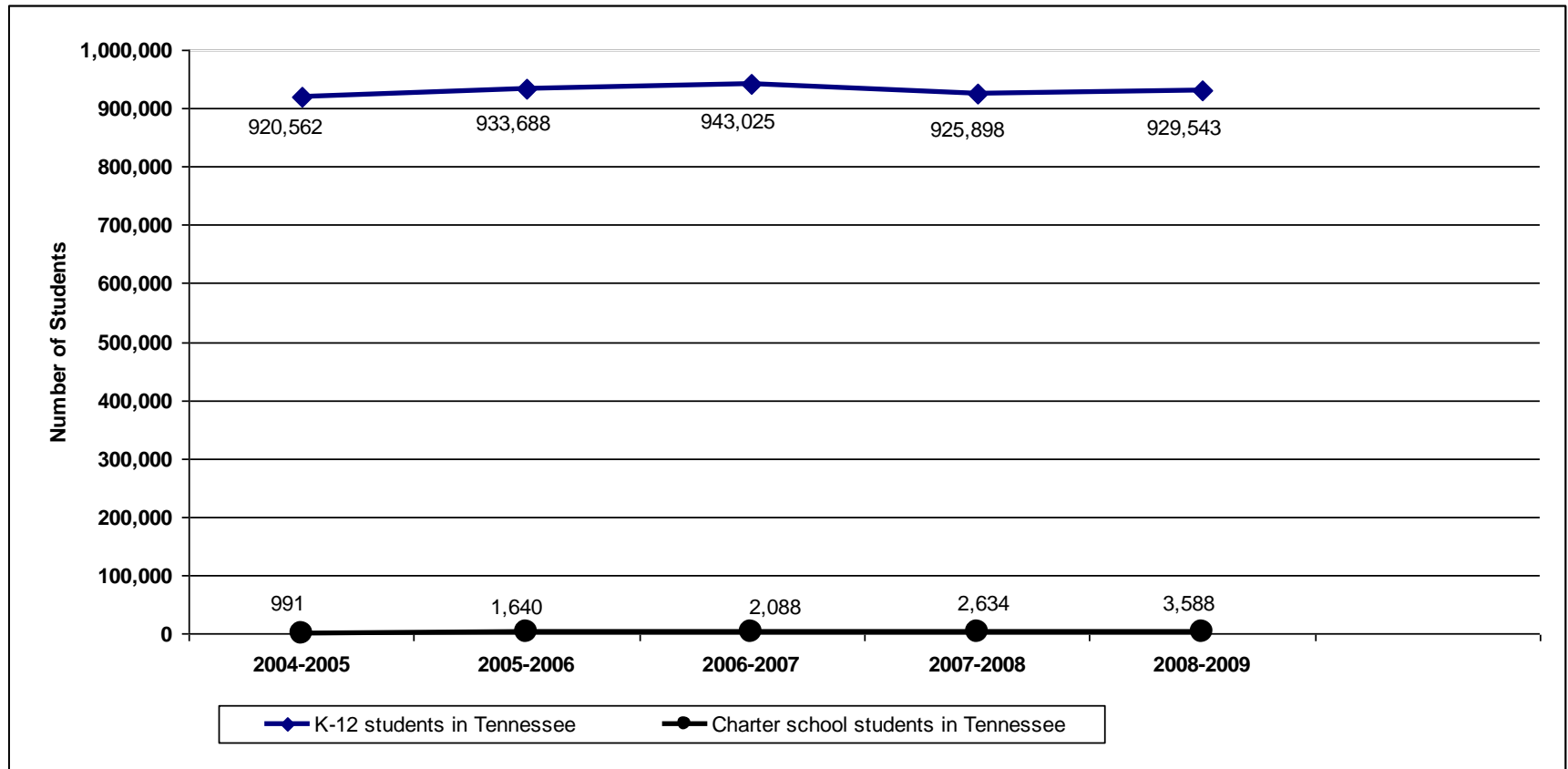
Changes to the charter statute in 2009 has set the stage for more rapid growth



*One school (Yo! Academy!) was closed in 2007

*One school (Global Academy) was closed in 2010

Charters as Portion of TN Public School Students



Lengthy Application Process

Sponsoring Agency

Submission no later than October 1

Local Board of Education

60 days to review, deny or approve

Sponsoring Agency

15 days to amend and resubmit

Local Board of Education

15 days to review, deny or approve

Sponsoring Agency

10 days to appeal to SBE

State Board of Education

60 days to review and present findings

Total timeline if necessary: 160 days (mid-March)

Cohort 1 - Schools Authorized to Open Fall 2003

Circles of Success Learning Academy	Memphis City Schools
Memphis Academy of Health Sciences	Memphis City Schools
Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering	Memphis City Schools
Smithson Craighead Academy	Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

Cohort 2 - Schools Authorized to Open Fall 2004

City University School of Liberal Arts	Memphis City Schools
STAR Academy	Memphis City Schools
Yo! Academy (closed Fall 2007)	Memphis City Schools

Cohort 3 - Schools Authorized to Open Fall 2005

Promise Academy	Memphis City Schools
Memphis Business Academy	Memphis City Schools
Southern Avenue Charter School	Memphis City Schools
Soulsville Charter School (formerly STAX)	Memphis City Schools
KIPP Academy	Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

Cohort 4 - Schools Authorized to Open Fall 2006

Cohort 5 - Schools Authorized to Open Fall 2007

LEAD Academy	Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
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Cohort 6 - Schools Authorized to Open Fall 2008

Power Center Academy	Memphis City Schools
KIPP Diamond Academy	Memphis City Schools
Memphis Academy of Health Sciences -High School	Memphis City Schools
Memphis Business Academy -High School	Memphis City Schools

Cohort 7 - Schools Authorized to Open Fall 2009

Ivy Academy	Hamilton County Schools
Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy	Hamilton County Schools
City University School -Boys Preparatory	Memphis City Schools
Freedom Preparatory Academy	Memphis City Schools
Nashville Global Academy (closed Spring 2010)	Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
Smithson Craighead Academy -Middle School	Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

Cohort 8- Schools Authorized to Open Fall 2010

Memphis College Preparatory Elementary School

Memphis School of Excellence

New Consortium of Law and Business

Omni Prep-North Pointe Lower School

Omni Prep -North Pointe Middle School

Southern Avenue Middle School

Veritas College Preparatory Leadership Academy

New Vision Academy

Memphis City Schools

Memphis City Schools

Memphis City Schools

Memphis City Schools

Memphis City Schools

Memphis City Schools

Memphis City Schools

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

Charter Applications 2009

HCDE

- One (1) original
 - Elementary

MCS

- Four (4) renewals
- Eighteen (18) originals
 - Three (3) elementary schools
 - Two (2) elementary/middle school
 - Five (5) middle schools
 - Four (4) middle/high schools
 - Four (4) high schools

MNPS

- Six (6) originals
 - One (1) elementary/middle school
 - Three (3) middle schools
 - One (1) elementary/middle/high school
 - One (1) high school

Charter Applications 2010

- 11 MNPS received in April, 2010
- The following are scheduled to open in Nashville in Fall 2011
 - Cameron Prep
 - East End Preparatory
 - STEM Preparatory Academy
 - Drexel Preparatory Academy
- 1 HCDE received in June, 2010
- The following will open in Chattanooga in Fall of 2011
 - Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence
- Remaining applications are due October 1, 2010

TN Charter Schools 101

- Charter schools are public schools.
- Charter schools cannot charge tuition.
- Charter schools cannot handpick their students.
- Charter schools are highly accountable.
- Charter schools provide options for LEAs.

Public Charter School Contributions

- Mission focus (creating opportunities for underserved)
- Heavy reliance upon relation-building
- Need for collaboration (Toledo/Indianapolis)
- Socially embedded (boards, mission, community & vicinity)
- Success driven
- Economically challenged yet providing results
- Innovations within education

Public Charter School Product: Innovation within Charter Schools

- Curriculum
(specialized scope of instruction)
- Operation
(extended day, year, summer school)
- Governance
(teacher, leader incentives)
- Board
(external relationship cultivation)

Charter School Enrollment

- Students who were previously enrolled in a charter school.
- Students assigned to a school failing to make AYP.
- Students who failed to test proficient on TCAP.
- Students who failed to test proficient on EOC.
- Students who are enrolled in FRPL.

Free and Reduced Price Lunch Qualifier

- Order of priority must be ensured.
- Students must reside in an LEA with at least 14,000 students or more

AND

- Have at least three High Priority schools.

HOWEVER

- An LEA may choose to use the FRPL qualifier through a 2 / 3 majority vote by the Local Board of Education.

Number of Charter Schools

- Not to exceed ninety (90) statewide.
 - Thirty-five (35) in Memphis City Schools
 - Four (4) in Shelby County
 - Twenty (20) in Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools
 - Three (3) schools (one per LEA) can be devoted exclusively to re-enrollment of high school dropouts (these school do not count against cap)
 - Total: Fifty-nine (59)
- Conversion charter schools do not apply toward the cap.

Period of Authorization

- Ten (10) years
- Interim renewal period at five (5) years.

Interim report to include progress toward achieving:

Goals

Objectives

Pupil performance standards

Content standards

Other terms of approved charter agreement

State Department of Education

- Promulgate rules and regulations on BEP and Title funds.
- Calculate and distribute capital costs to charter schools.
- Develop guidelines for interim reporting and renewal application process.
- Identify and disseminate best practices of charter schools.
- Develop student tracking system for incoming and exiting students of charter schools.
- Report on annual progress of charter schools.
- Report on how changes in funding affect charter schools.

TNDOE: Charter School Program Grant

- NCLB Title V, Part B, Public Charter Schools Program
- Planning and Implementation Grant for Tennessee Public Charter Schools
- Awarded to charter school applicants after LEA authorization
- Planning Period: \$225,000.00
- Implementation Year 1: \$250,000.00
- Implementation Year 2: \$125,000.00
- Total: \$600,000.00
- Local Finance: Karen Weidemann administers these funds

Questions?

- For more information
- TNDOE Website – Charter Page
 - <http://state.tn.us/education/fedprog/fpcharterschls.shtml>
- If you have an questions, please contact
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- Karen.Weidemann@tn.gov